

Green Lodging News

June 2006

Voting With Your Dollars: EPP

One of the most powerful ways the lodging industry can be more green is to vote with their dollars through environmentally preferred purchasing. EPP is the procurement of goods and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment

Green Lodging News is a publication targeted toward Michigan's hospitality facilities. It is a service of the Energy Office, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. If you are interested in subscribing to the monthly newsletter, please contact jhsarve@michigan.gov.

Green Tip of the Month

Soaker hoses help you save!

- Sprinklers waste water on overspray, runoff and evaporation. Soaker hoses ensure water gets to the plant's roots. They help you save:
- Time (no hand watering)
- Money (use less water)
- Plants (get water to roots and keep it off leaves)
- Environment (water conservation and using a recycled product!)



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compared to other goods and services that serve a similar purpose. It is an important issue to include in your environmental policy. The following sections outline significant components of an EPP program.

Energy-Efficient and Water Conserving Products

Buying energy-efficient or water conserving products is the easiest step a facility can take to reduce costs. Many types of energy-efficient products are available, including clothes washers, refrigerators, boilers, lights, office equipment and windows.

Recycled Products

Recycled products are made from recyclable materials that are collected from either post-consumer

or post-industrial waste sources. Common recycled products for use in the lodging industry include paper products, toner cartridges, office furniture and carpet. As technology advances, products are improving by becoming better for the environment, cheaper and more efficient. Purchasing these products supports the expanding recycled materials market.

Non-Toxic Products

Buying non-toxic products will keep hazardous chemicals out of the soil, air and water. It also reduces regulatory, environmental and personal liabilities; improves worker safety; and can reduce disposal costs. Examples of Non-toxic products that can be purchased include architectural paints and

cleaning products. To find a product while considering the environment, price and performance, go to www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/cleaners/select/.

Products that Last Longer & Use Less Materials

The lodging industry can reduce waste by purchasing reusable products or eliminating unnecessary packaging. For example, you could buy products in bulk, ask your vendor to take back pallets and crates or request that your vendor use reusable or recyclable containers.

Food From Local Sources

Buying food locally is good for Michigan's economy, family farmers, customer health and the environment. [Click here](#) for a Web directory of local markets and product.

Green Cleaning Your B&B

Many B&Bs use store-bought products to clean their inn effectively. These products, however, can be toxic and could be polluting your B&B. Cleaners that are scented with synthetic fragrances contain VOCs and can damage the environment and your health. As an alternative, try making the following all natural home cleaners.

Glass Cleaner: One gal. water, 1/2 cup white vinegar, 1/2 teaspoon liquid dish detergent. Put the mixture into a spray bottle to use on glass.

Wood Floor Cleaner: 1/2 cup white vinegar, 1/2 cup vegetable oil. Mix well.

Furniture Polish: 1 cup vegetable/olive oil, 1/2 cup lemon juice, and shake well.

All-Purpose Cleaner: 1 teaspoon borax, 1/2 tablespoon washing soda, 2 tablespoons lemon juice, 1 cup hot water. Put in a spray bottle and shake well.

All-Purpose Deep Cleaner: 1 cup ammonia, 1/2 cup white vinegar, 1/4 cup baking soda, 1 gal. warm water. Mix well.

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